

Lowell Walks

Patrick J. Mogan
Cultural Center

Welcome to “Lowell Walks: Past and Present,” an exhibition documenting what it means to experience the city on foot. Lowell is a place where walking was part of the urban scene early on; where people stroll for fun and hike for good health; where groups march for charitable causes; where folks from near and far come to learn about our rich history through guided tours; and where the Lowell Walks initiative was an instant phenomenon in 2015.



Roxane Howe, 2015

This exhibit is a partnership of the Patrick J. Mogan Center, UMass Lowell Libraries, Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell Walks, Lowell Historical Society, RichardHowe.com and UMass Lowell Community Relations.



RichardHowe.com
Lowell Politics & History



“What is it you have O City of Lowell, that gets into the Blood ...that infects the veins and the arteries ...that fills the ventricles of the heart?” -Charles G. Sampsas



Images provided by the Lowell Historical Society, Center for Lowell History

The Northern Canal from three views: upper left is from the vicinity of Fox Hall looking East towards the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell; the upper right and bottom photos are of the wall that separates the canal from the Merrimack River.

The extensive granite wall that was created for the Northern Canal not only held the water of the canal but created an elevated walkway used for promenading, a favorite leisure activity for 19th century Lowellians.

Along the Waterways Canal History

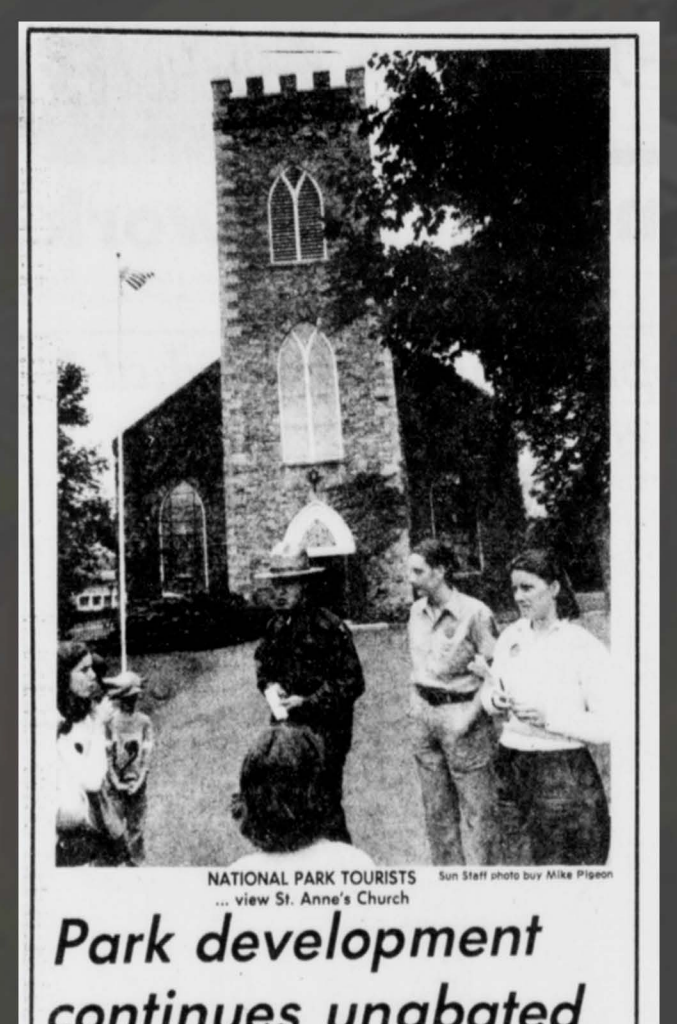
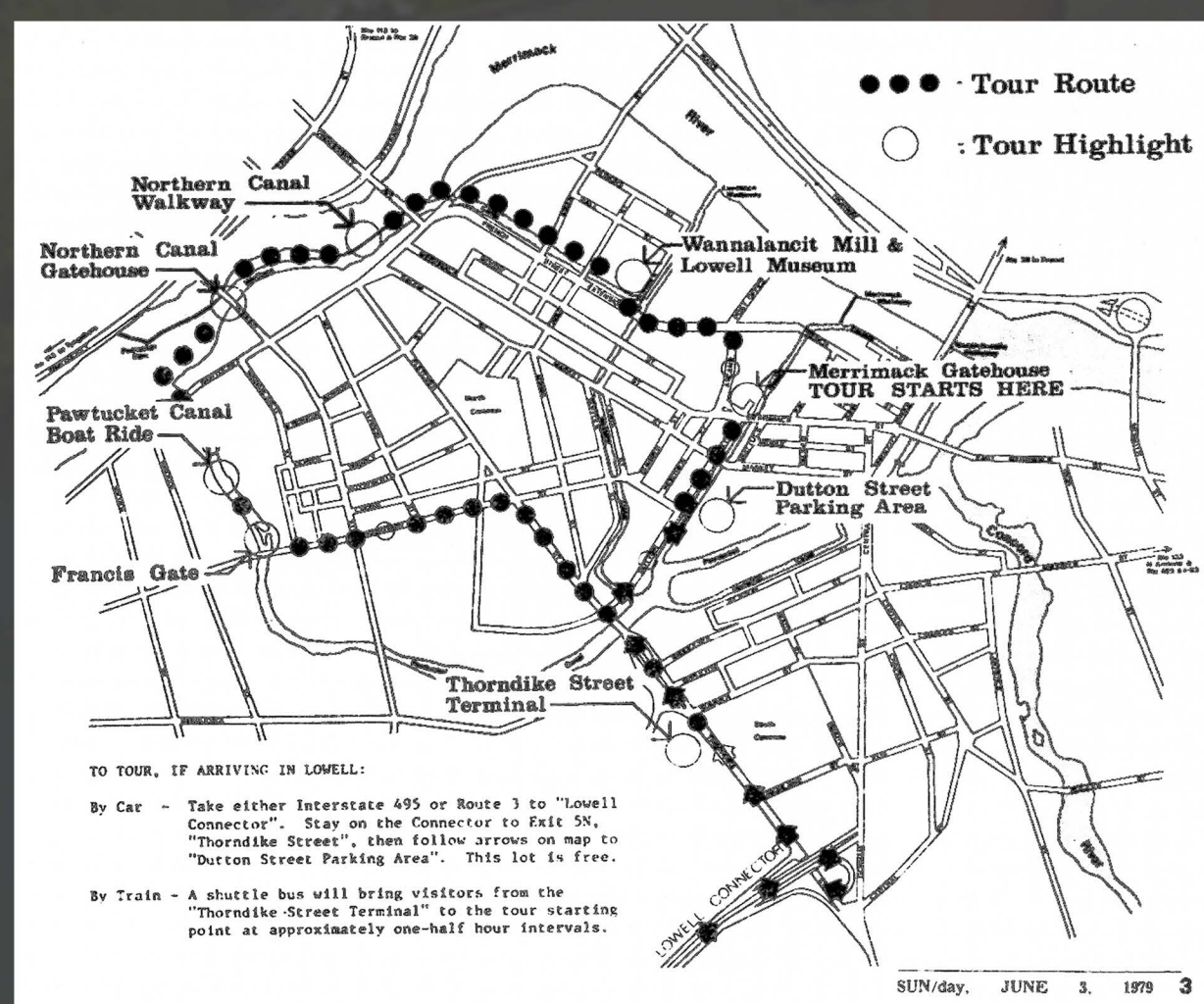
Walking since the early days of Lowell

National Park

2016: A Centennial Year

The unique heritage of Lowell preserved

Lowell National Historical Park opened in Lowell in 1978 with park rangers who guided people on walking tours of the historic district. Experiencing Lowell on foot has always been a key part of the park experience, particularly because the historic district is so easy to walk and the architecture and canals are best appreciated that way. Trolleys and boats carry visitors to park sites as well, but hiking is a real national park thing, whether in the West or our own city.



Top photos Jim Higgins, bottom images the Lowell Sun

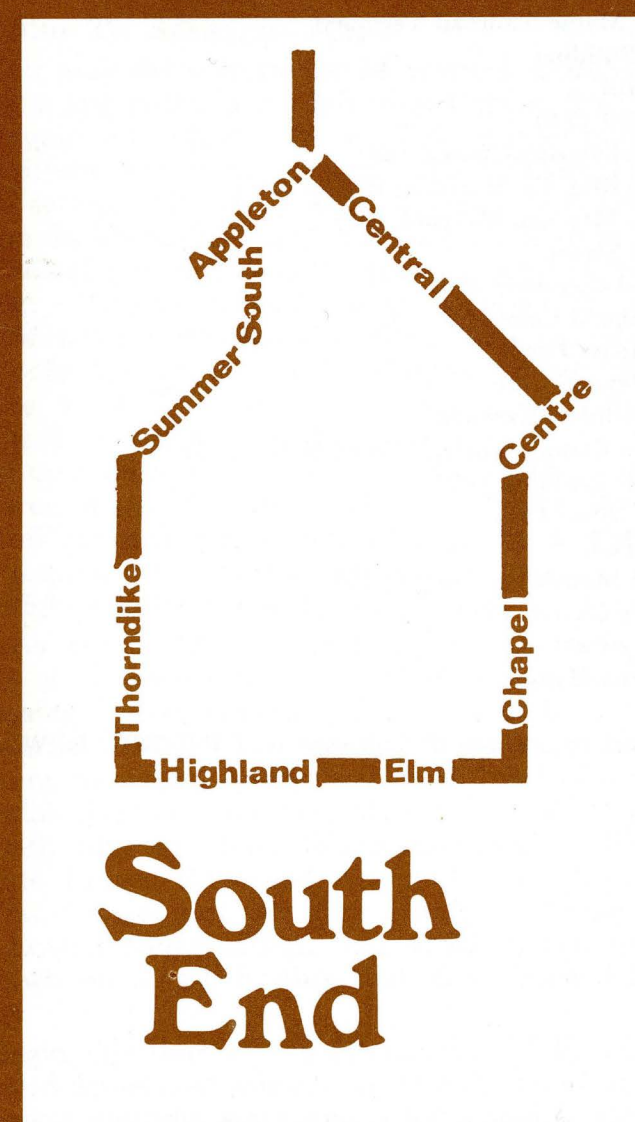
National Park tour map, June, 1979 (bottom left).
Park staff lead a tour of St. Anne's Church, downtown, 1980.

Walking Tours for the Bicentennial

Four District Tours

Walking in History

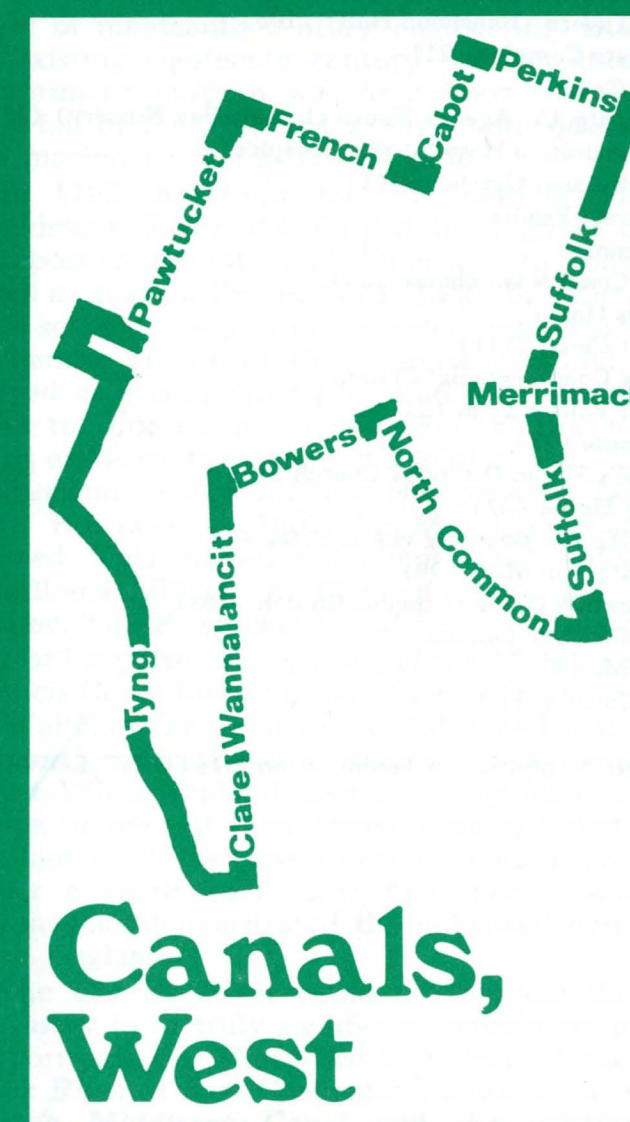
Walking Tours of LOWELL



Walking Tours of LOWELL



Walking Tours of LOWELL



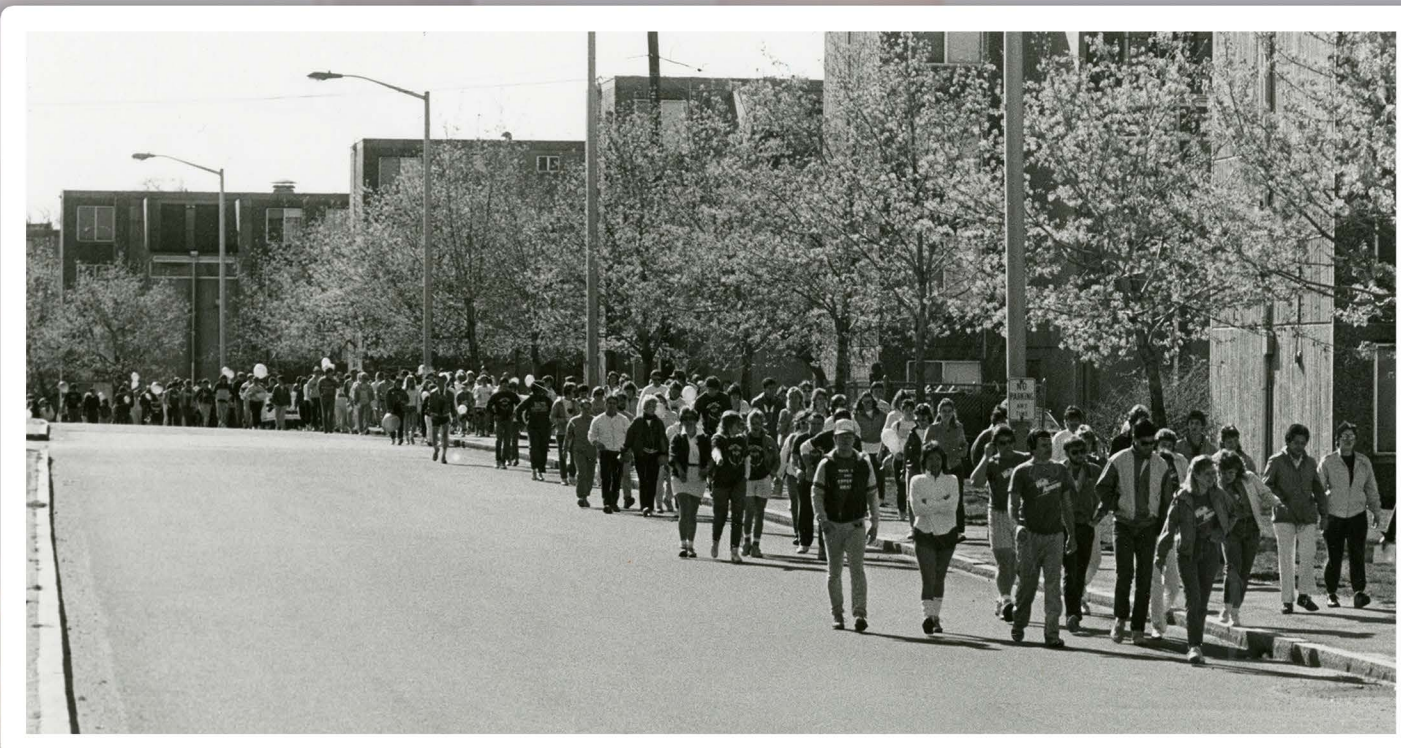
Walking Tours of LOWELL



On the occasion of the Bicentennial, several organizations worked together to provide Four Distinct Tour brochures to help educate the public on Lowell's Historic significance. Joseph E. Orphant created these historically detailed and well-illustrated brochures that got folks walking and learning much along the way.

These brochures have now been made available online through UMass Lowell Libraries' Digital Initiatives:

<http://libhost.uml.edu/collections/show/13>



Photos provided by the Lowell Historical Society, Lowell Sun Collection

(left, top to bottom)

Walk-America, JFK Plaza; Lynda Jack and Sydney (Baby) Leonardi with Amberg dog, April 26, 1987

Start of Walk-America, JFK Plaza
April 29, 1990.

Alan and Jean Perna on V.F.W. Highway walk
October 10, 1988.

(right, top to bottom)

March of Dimes
JFK Plaza
April 26, 1992

Walk for your Heart
Participants along the Merrimack River, September 27, 1989.

Start of Walkamerica,
April 26, 1987

Walk for your Heart Participants walk
along the Merrimack River
September 27, 1989

Taking to the streets to support a cause or to protest an issue is a long tradition in the United States, never more dramatic than in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The concept of the walk-a-thon, in which participants of all ages are sponsored by donors to raise money for public needs, became widely popular in the early 1970s. Scores of organizations and businesses in Greater Lowell, from hospitals to banks, got people putting one foot in front of the other in mass social events to help make a difference.

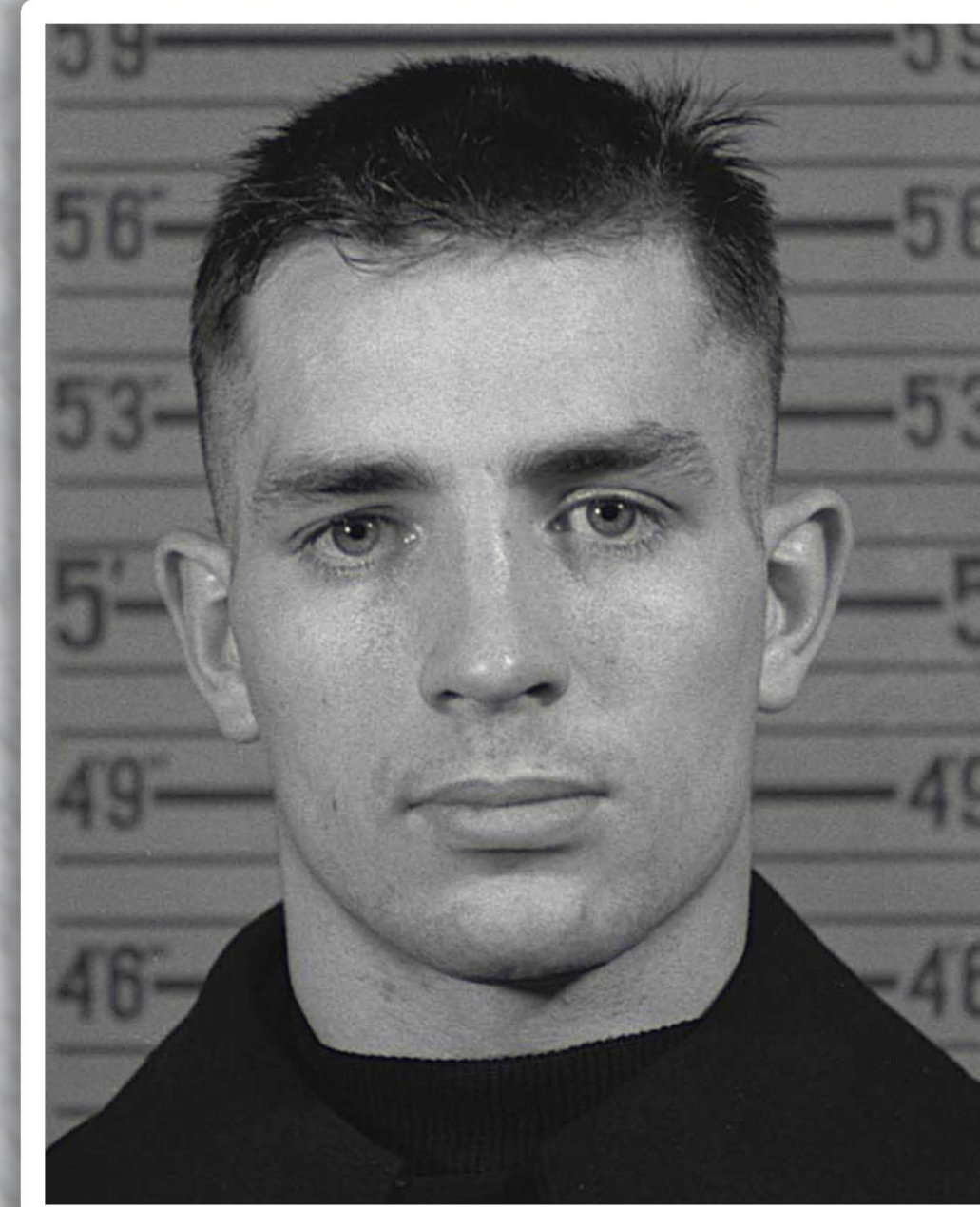
Walking With Purpose

Lowell Charity *Walks*

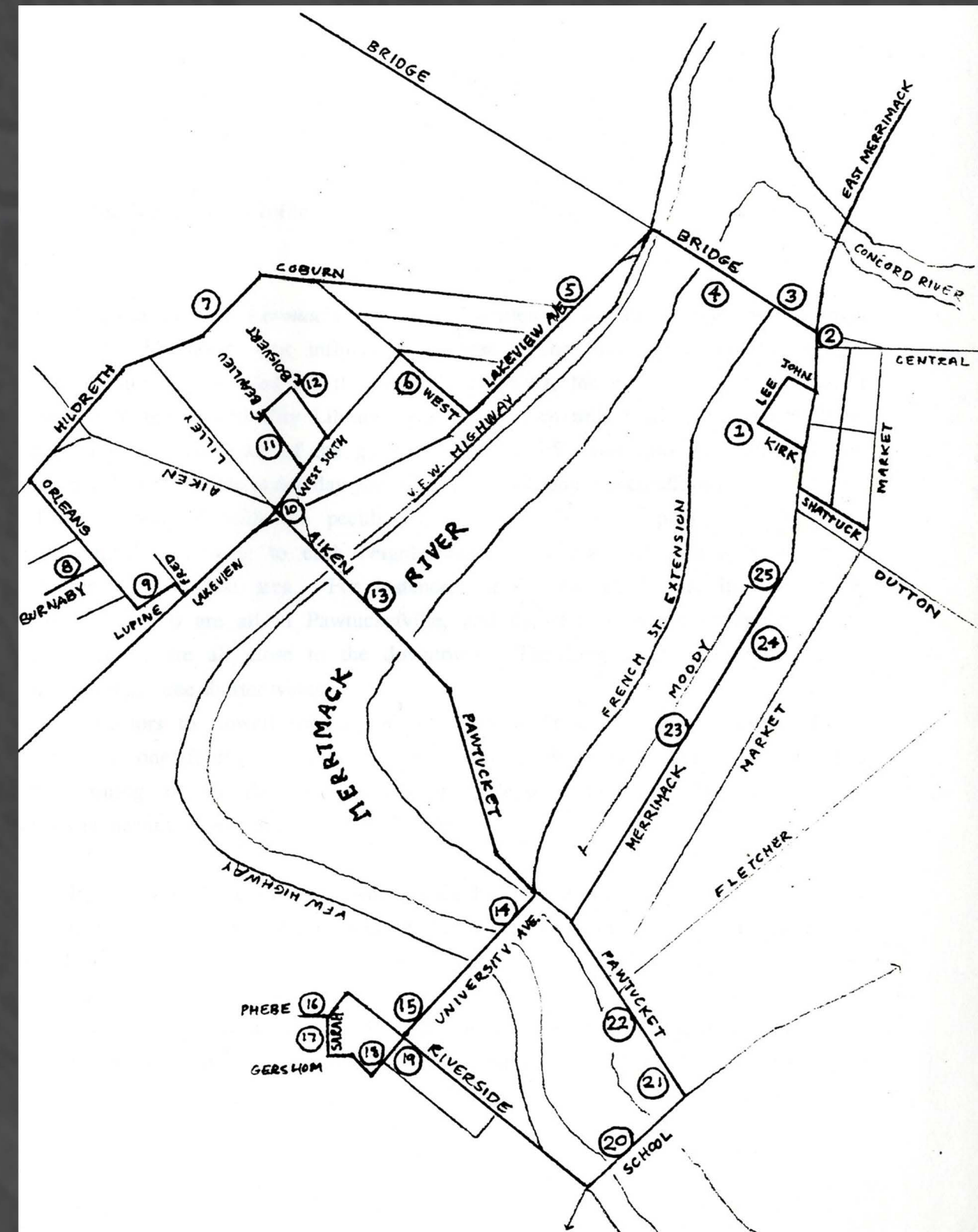
Jack Kerouac

(1922 - 1969)

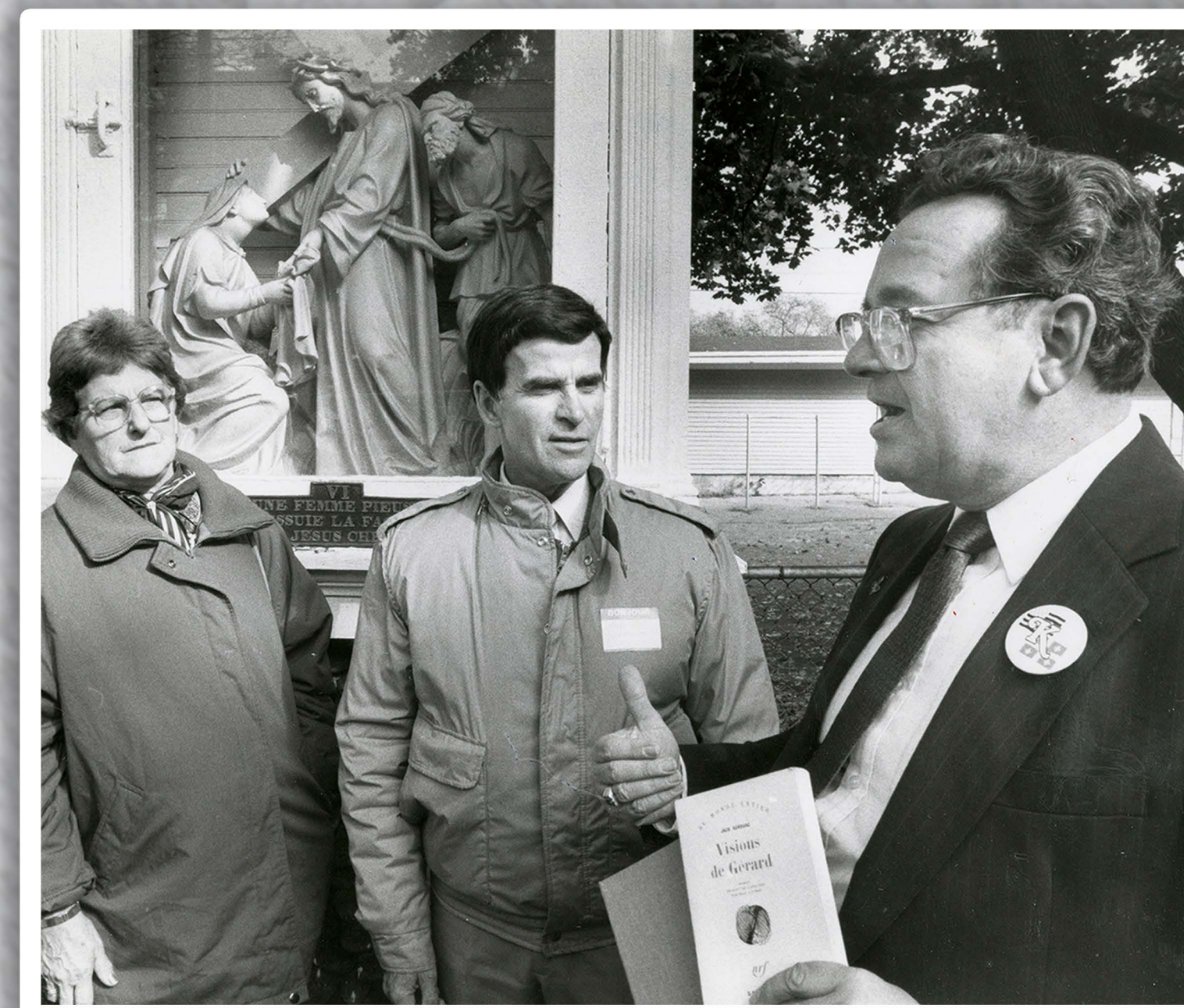
The Road Begins in Lowell



- 1 Lowell High School
- 2 Kearney Square
- 3 The Jack Kerouac Commemorative
- 4 Boott Mills
- 5 Lakeview Avenue
- 6 66 West Street (1929- 1932)
- 7 Hildreth Street (1927- 1929)
- 8 35 Burnaby Street (1925)
- 9 9 Lupine Road (1922 - 1925)
- 10 Lilley, Aiken, and West Sixth Street
- 11 34 Beaulieu Street (1925 - 1927)
- 12 St. Louis de France
- 13 Aiken Street Bridge
- 14 Moody Street Bridge
- 15 Riverside Street & Rosemont the Mysterious
- 16 16 Phebe Avenue (1932 - 1935)
- 17 35 Sarah Avenue (1936 - 1938)
- 18 The Pawtucketville Social Club
- 19 736 Moody Street (1938 - 1940)
- 20 The Merrimack River
- 21 The Grotto
- 22 Archambault Funeral Home
- 23 St. Jean Baptiste Church
- 24 The Spotlight Print Shop
- 25 Lowell City Library
- 26 Edison Cemetery



Map and Kerouac site locations from:
"A Guide to Jack Kerouac's Lowell"
 by Brian Foye and Jeffrey O'Heir,
 Corporation for the Celebration of
 Jack Kerouac in Lowell, 1988.
 (top right)



Kerouac Photos:
Naval Reserve Enlistment photo
 1943 (top left)

Center for Lowell History
George of Lowell,
March 28, 1964. (top right)

Kerouac Walking Tours with Roger Brunelle:
Lowell Historical Society, Lowell Sun Collection

For over thirty years Lowell native Roger Brunelle has lead seekers of the legend of the best selling author of *On the Road* (1957) through the city's streets. Roger has used his vast knowledge of Kerouac's life and work to develop nine distinct walking tours for both day and night time. Themes include: "Mystic Jack," "Ghosts of the Pawtucketville Night," and "Cutting Class."

Literary Lowell

A Reading City

Lowell *Walks* Tours with Sean Thibodeau

This tour highlights Lowell's rich literary connections including 19th century such figures as Lucy Larcom, Charles Dickens and Edgar Allen Poe. The tour swings through Kerouac Park to talk about Lowell's internationally famous native and rounds out with Lowell High School and the Pollard Memorial Library to discuss contemporary authors with Lowell connections. The Coordinator of Community Planning at the City Library, Sean Thibodeau is a writer and lifelong native of the city.

Photo credit, Jennifer Meyers (top right), all others Roxane Howe



Despite cotton being the economic lifeblood of Lowell, the city had a strong anti-slavery abolitionist movement in the decades before the Civil War. UMass Lowell Professor Robert Farrant tells of abolitionist rallies and counter-rallies, slave catchers, the Underground Railroad and more. Farrant is a Professor of History at UMass Lowell.

*Photo credits
Jennifer Meyers (top)
Roxane Howe (middle, bottom)*



Abolitionism

Lowell Fights for Equality

Lowell *Walks* in History with Robert Farrant

Public Art Transforms Lowell

Contemporary Art in a Heritage Zone

On the Sculpture Trail with Rosemary Noon and Paul Marion

In the 1980s, monumental sculptures began appearing around and even in the Lowell canals thanks to U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas and his public art committee. The artworks are expressive commentaries on the themes of the National Park, from labor struggles to industrial innovation. The commissioning value of the collection was about \$1 million. The Lowell Public Art Collection is considered one of the significant urban design projects of its time. Noon and Marion managed the planning and installation of most of the pieces while working at the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, and later, for Rosemary, at the Lowell Office of Cultural Affairs.

Photo credits Joseph Marion, (left) Roxane Howe, (middle and right).



(Left to right)

“Human Construction” by Carlos Dorrien (1948 –) Pawtucket Canal Bridge on Central Street;
“The Lowell Sculptures: One” (of Three), by Robert Cumming (1943 –) Boarding House Park;
“Pawtucket Prism” by Michio Ihara (1928 –) Lower Locks Complex.

Trains and Trolleys

Industry and the Railroad

Lowell *Walks* with Chris Hayes

Lowell was a leader in the early railroad industry and also featured a comprehensive streetcar network. During Chris' walks, people learn about these and future plans for trolleys and public transportation in the city.

Chris Hayes is a transportation planner and is co-author of the "Learning Lowell" blog.

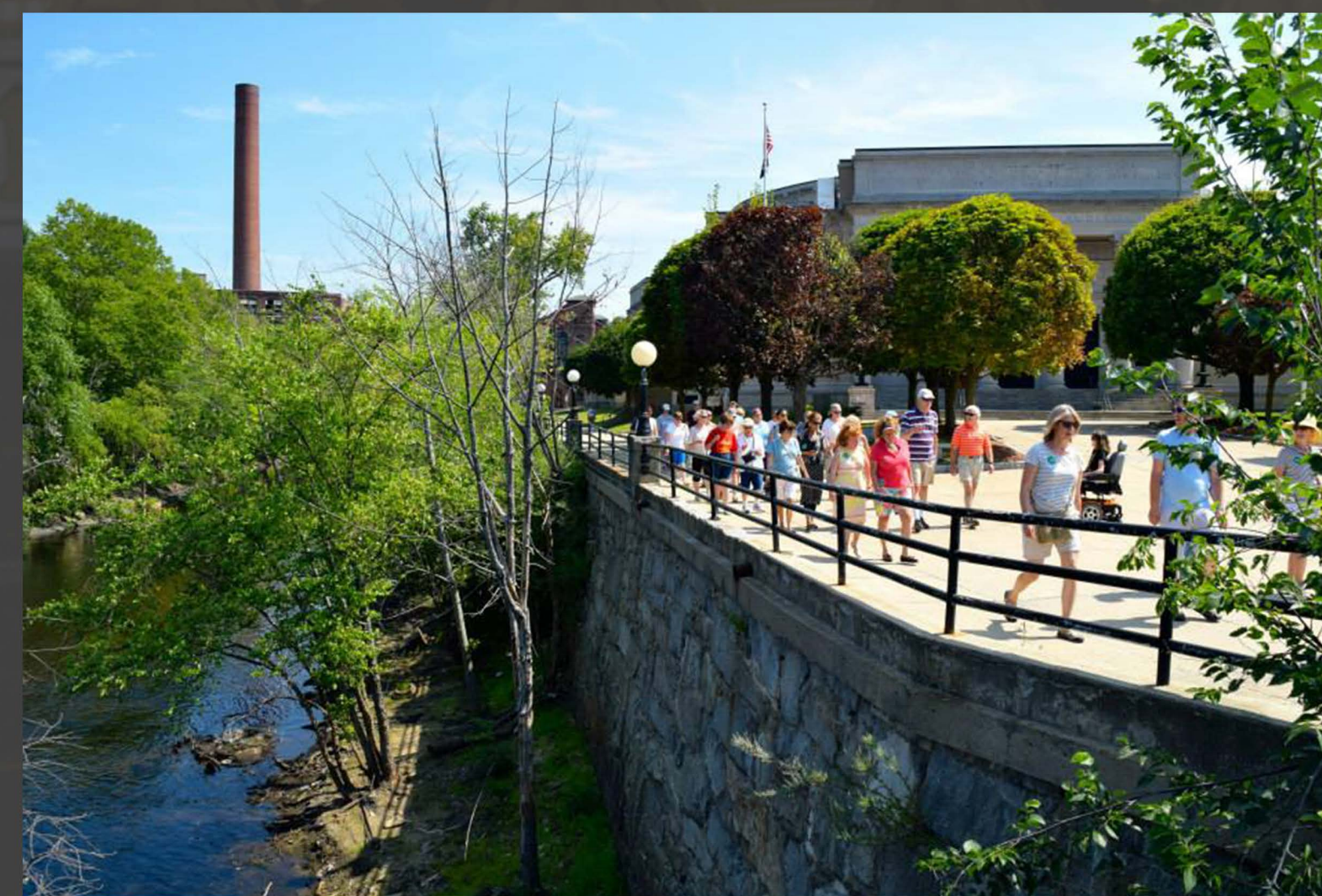


Photo credit, Jennifer Meyers (left and center), Roxane Howe (right)

Howe Walks

The Idea Gains Momentum

Learning About Our City, One Step at a Time



Photo credit, Jennifer Meyers

For the summer of 2015, Richard Howe recruited experts to guide 13 Saturday morning walking tours of downtown Lowell. More than 1300 people participated in the walks.



Photo credit, Jennifer Meyers, 2015

Howe's tours of the Lowell Cemetery (left) at the iconic Ayer Lion, were the inspiration for Lowell Walks.

The Lowell Monuments tour on August 29, 2015 drew a record 164 participants, shown here at the Officer Christos G. Rouses Memorial on JFK Plaza.

Lowell Walks

Summer 2016

Discover the city's special places and stories

June 11, 2016

**Preservation Success Stories
with Fred Faust**

June 18, 2016

**Hamilton Canal Update
with Staff from the
City of Lowell's DPD**

June 25, 2016

**The Irish in the Acre
with Dave McKean**

July 2, 2016

NO TOUR

July 9, 2016

**Literary Lowell
with Sean Thibodeau**

July 16, 2016

**Upper Merrimack Street
with Yun-Ju Choi**

July 23, 2016

**Major Downtown Fires
with Jason Strunk**

July 30, 2016

**Lowell Folk Festival
NO TOUR**

August 6, 2016

**Lowell Public Art Collection
with Paul Marion and
Rosemary Noon**

August 13, 2016

**Greeks in the Acre
with Steve Panagiotakos**

August 20, 2016

**East Merrimack Street
with Dick Howe**

August 27, 2016

**History of Lowell
National Historical Park
with Celeste Bernardo**



RichardHowe.com
Lowell Politics & History



Lowell Walks is a series of guided walking tours of downtown Lowell on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Each tour has a different topic led by a different tour guide. All tours begin at 10 a.m. from the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center at 246 Market Street in Lowell.

For information, contact dickhowejr@gmail.com.